

REMARKS

Claim 15 has been amended to replace "obtainable" with "obtained". No new subject matter is added by this amendment.

The present invention is directed to polyurethane-based one-component baking systems, a process for their production and a method of preparing paints, inks and adhesives from these systems. The systems of the present invention include blocked isocyanates, polymers having isocyanate-reactive groups, at least one molybdenum and/or tungsten-containing compound selected from a specified group, and water and/or organic solvents. The blocked isocyanates plus polymers having isocyanate-reactive groups are present in an amount totaling from 20 to 89.9 parts by weight, the tungsten and/or molybdenum catalyst is present in an amount of from 0.01 to 5 parts by weight, from 10 to 70 parts by weight of water and/or solvent are present and up to 10 parts by weight of additives and auxiliaries may be present.

I. Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The specific basis for this rejection is the language "obtainable".

Claim 15 has been amended to replace "obtainable" with "obtained".

It is believed that this amendment removes the basis for this rejection.

Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore requested.

II. Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 14-18, 22-24, and 29-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe et al (2003/0096103) in view of Yagii et al (U.S. Patent 5,138,015). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Watanabe et al discloses a coated metal plate which comprises a metal plate laminated on at least one surface with a conductive plastic coated film and an electrodeposition coated film. The conductive plastic coated film may be any plastic film provided with conductivity. Not one of the conductive substances disclosed by

Watanabe et al is a tungsten or molybdenum compound, much less a tungsten or molybdenum compound selected from the group of such compounds required by Applicants' claims.

Watanabe et al also discloses an electrodeposition coated film on the surface of the conductive plastic film. This electrodeposition coated film can be prepared by blending (i) a base resin having a hydroxyl group and an amino group which can be converted to cation and (ii) a curing agent such as a blocked polyisocyanate, neutralizing a cationic group in the base resin with an acid, and then mixing with water. A curing catalyst having corrosion resistance may be included.

Watanabe et al teaches electrodeposited coating surfaces - **not** one-component **baked** systems such as those being claimed by Applicants. Watanabe et al does not teach or suggest use of any of the molybdenum and/or tungsten compounds required by Applicants' claims.

Yagii et al discloses a process for producing polyurethane useful as a coating material having reduced levels of chlorine because the isocyanate used to produce the reference polyurethane was prepared in the absence of phosgene.

Yagii et al is cited for its teaching that any of the known catalysts for the thermal **decomposition** of a urethane such as that which Yagii et al prepare by reacting a dialkyl carbonate with a diamine. Among these known catalysts are metallic manganese and manganese compounds, metallic molybdenum and molybdenum compounds, metallic tungsten and tungsten compounds and "most other catalysts which are generally used in the thermal decomposition of urethane." (column 9, lines 56-58)

Yagii et al does not teach or suggest anything with respect to one component baked coating systems. In fact, the teaching for which Yagii et al is cited is directed to the production of an isocyanate, i.e., a process for producing a **starting material** for the blocked polyisocyanates employed in the coating systems of Applicants' invention - not the coating system of Applicants' claims.

It is conceded in the Office Action that Watanabe et al fail to teach the specific molybdenum and tungsten catalyst compounds required by Applicants' claims. (at page 3, lines 10-12 of the Office Action). Yagii et al teaches that catalysts such as those required by Applicants' claims are suitable for **breaking down** a polyurethane

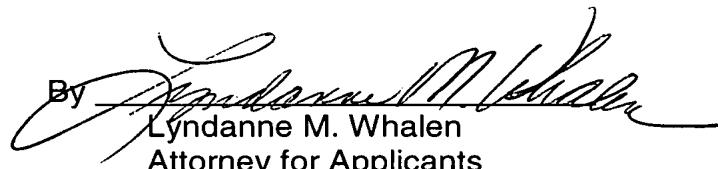
rather than forming a polyurethane in accordance with Applicants' claimed invention.

The combined teachings of Watanabe et al and Yagii et al would not therefore render Applicants' claimed invention obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art reading those references at the time Applicants made their invention.

Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore requested.

In view of the above amendment and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 14-18, 22-24, and 29-37 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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